

PUBLIC COMMENT
Packsaddle Road Abandonment
NEUTRAL TO



August 10, 2015

Teton County Town Hall Meeting

SCENIC PARKWAY COMMENT SHEET

Please provide written comment regarding the proposed Scenic Parkway Project.

Name: Pete & Marylou Oehlund

e-mail: mloslund@aol.com

Phone: 208-251-2979

COMMENT: see photos ...

= need more culverts on road

need better improvements beside

road so it doesn't wash out

keep the recreation easement

for sledding & snowmobiling

need to have grooming work with

more traffic on back roads - speed

& number of volume of traffic because

and it's a snow







P.O. Box 373
189 N. Main St, Suite 115
Driggs, ID 83422
(208) 201-1622
www.tvtap.org

June 2, 2016

To: Darryl Johnson

From: Tim Adams, Executive Director
Teton Valley Trails and Pathways

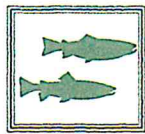
Re: Application for a Road Vacation/Abandonment/Addition submitted to vacate/relocate portions of Packsaddle Road (W 4000 N) and Hoopes

Please accept this letter of comment regarding the proposed application. This comment is directed specifically at a proposed pathway that would run the length of the road. Although we encourage bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure be a part of any new road project in Teton County we feel the location and lack of connections to this proposed path would not be a good investment for the county to take on. The investment needed by Teton County to maintain this pathway would not equal the use by bicyclists and pedestrians and that it would likely see little to no use by current county residents. We encourage Teton County Idaho to look at ways to divert the funds it would take to build such a pathway to projects that are currently part of bicycle and pedestrian priorities that better serve our current and near future residents of Teton Valley Idaho.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Adams", is written over a horizontal line.

Tim Adams
Executive Director
Teton Valley Trails And Pathways



June 3, 2016

Board of County Commissioners, Teton County
150 Courthouse Drive
Driggs, ID 83422

Dear County Commissioners,

The Teton Regional Land Trust (TRLT) would like to express our continued concern regarding the potential adoption of the proposed Teton Valley Scenic Parkway and the proposed 8.39 acre parking area. A portion of the proposed Scenic Parkway and the proposed 8.39 acre parking area are adjacent to a 253 acre conservation easement property held by TRLT.

This 253 acre conservation easement property, as well as an adjacent 125 acre conservation easement property that sits just north of USFS Route 381, are both subject to frequent trespass and disturbance from the public. The creation of a public access parking area at the proposed location would put these properties in an even more vulnerable state by creating the perception that these properties are part of US Forest Service land, and therefore permissibly accessible to the public. Furthermore, the size of the parking area is of concern, as it appears to be extraordinarily large for its intended use.

Additionally, the portion of the Scenic Byway that runs north-south, proposed to access USFS Route 381 from the 8.39 acre parking area, is immediately adjacent to the eastern boundary of the 253 acre conservation easement property boundary (see enclosed map). The conservation easement would not permit any portion of this road, or right-of-way associated with this road, to encroach on the conservation easement property.

TRLT is obligated to ensure that the conservation values of these conservation easement properties are not jeopardized by such a development. The current location of the proposed public access area would certainly increase trespass, potential for encroachment, both land and wildlife disturbance and increased litter from unrestricted public use.

If Teton County adopts the Scenic Byway road and parking area, we request that the appropriate measures are taken to mitigate any impacts on the conservation values of these important protected pieces of land. Of critical importance would be the installation of wildlife friendly fencing and signage along the conservation easement properties exposed boundaries, identifying these properties as private and protected, to deter trespass from the proposed parking area and access road (#381) to the forest. It should also be posted that no overnight camping be permitted in this proposed parking area.

Additionally, we request the installation of an information kiosk at the parking area, complete with maps outlining the location of the private conservation easement property boundaries in relation to the public access, as well as facilities such as public restrooms and bear-safe trash receptacles. We also request a survey of the parking area to ensure that the construction does not encroach on these conservation easement boundaries.

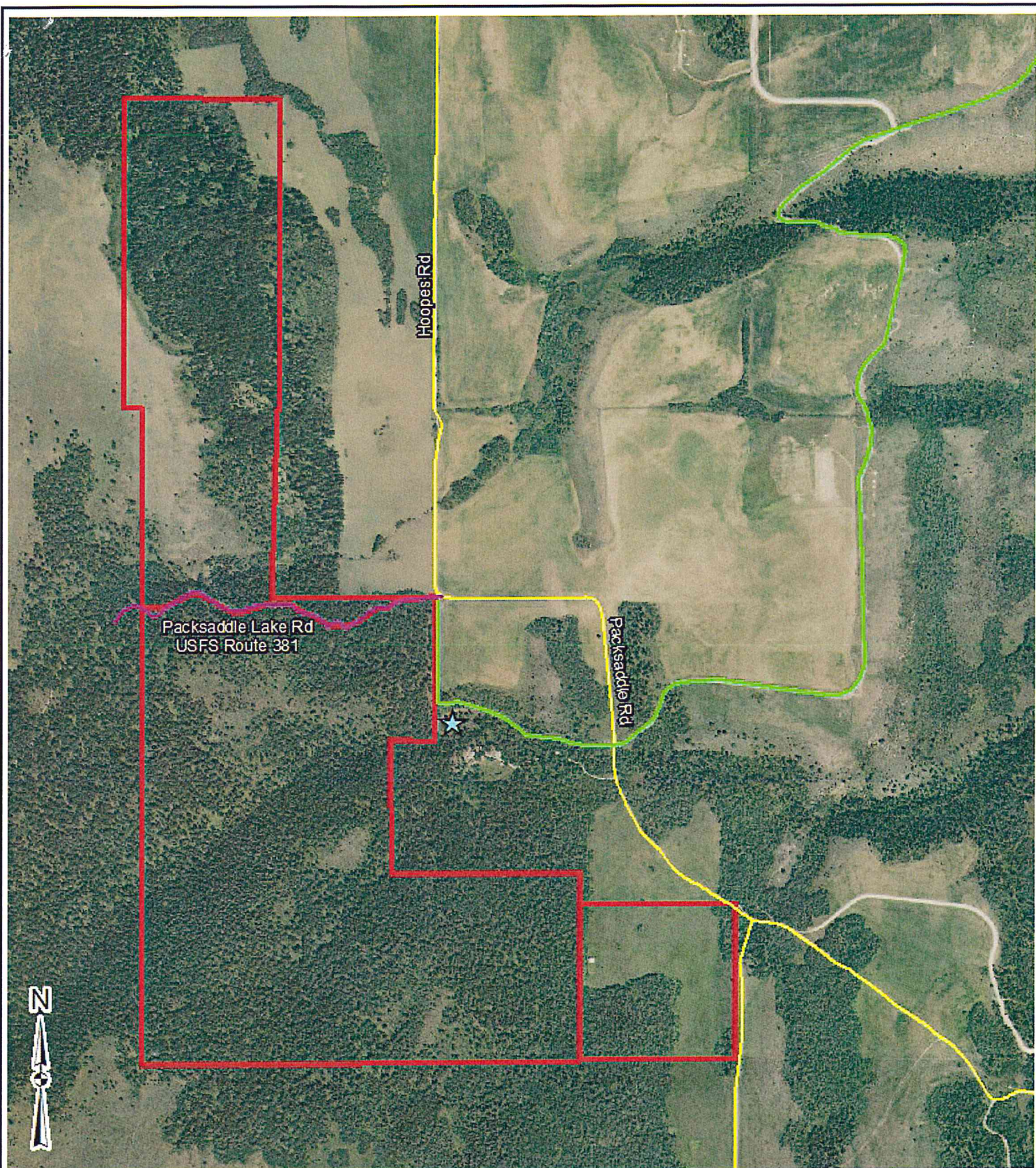
TRLT is committed to ensuring the integrity of our perpetual conservation easements. Thank you for your consideration and helping us ensure that these lands are forever protected for not only present, but also future generations.

Sincerely,




A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tamara Sperber", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Tamara Sperber
Conservation Director

encl



PACKSADDLE CONSERVATION EASEMENTS MAP

-  CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROPERTY BOUNDARY
-  PARKING AREA
-  PROPOSED SCENIC PARKWAY

0 0.25 0.5
Miles

2015 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
MAP BY TETON REGIONAL LAND TRUST, 2016



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

UPPER SNAKE REGION

4279 Commerce Circle

Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

C.L. "Butch" Otter / Governor

Virgil Moore / Director

December 1, 2015

Darryl Johnson, PE/PLS
Teton County
Idaho Public Works Department
150 Courthouse Drive
Driggs, ID 83422

RE: Proposed Realignment of Packsaddle Road and Hoopes Road on the West Side of Teton Valley.

Dear Darryl:

Idaho Department of Fish and Game staff received your request for comments for the proposed Packsaddle and Hoopes Road realignments. Resident species of fish and wildlife are property of all Idaho citizens. Idaho Department of Fish and Game (Department) and the Idaho Fish and Game Commission are expressly charged with statutory responsibility to preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage all fish and wildlife in Idaho (Idaho Code 36-103 (a)). In fulfillment of our statutory charge and direction as provided by the Idaho Legislature, we offer the following comments and recommendations. The purpose of these comments is to assist Teton County by providing technical information addressing potential effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat and how any adverse effect might be mitigated. It is not the intention of Idaho Department of Fish and Game to support or oppose this proposal.

As shown in the May 5, 2006 Wildlife Overlay and Wildlife Conservation Measures for Teton County, Idaho, the proposed relocation of the section of Packsaddle county road will be located in a portion of a big game migration corridor and big game seasonal range (Fig 2, pg10).

The new road would have potential negative impacts on wildlife habitat in the form of wildlife habitat fragmentation (if the existing road is not reclaimed after abandonment by the county), increased traffic (disturbance), and increased vehicle speeds resulting in possible wildlife/vehicle collisions. This issue should be addressed following guidelines developed in the August 2015 draft Land Development Code, Article 13, Division 13.3, section 13.3.9. (Wildlife Habitat Protection Plan). If the current county road is abandoned, the Department recommends it be reclaimed and returned to rangeland or cropland to address the fragmentation issue.

The Department previously had similar discussions with Grand View Ranch when they proposed

that the County abandon the Milk Creek county road in 2009. It seems clear from documents provided at that time (see included Grand View Ranch – Opportunities & Constraints map) the intent of the road movement is to secure privacy for future housing development in the “Excellent Teton Views” area that the present county road intersects. If this is the intent of this road realignment, this proposal is just the beginning of more significant wildlife impacts. We suggest that Teton County consider this as “phase one” of a much larger development.

The Department always seeks ways to secure public access. During the realignment discussion between you and Paul Faulkner of my staff, it was noted that the landowner is willing to give permanent easements for existing access to the Targhee National Forest. The Department recommends that the county ensure that these easements or land donations are in place before acceptance of the new road and abandonment of the old road takes place.

Thank you for providing us an opportunity to comment on this proposed realignment.

Sincerely,



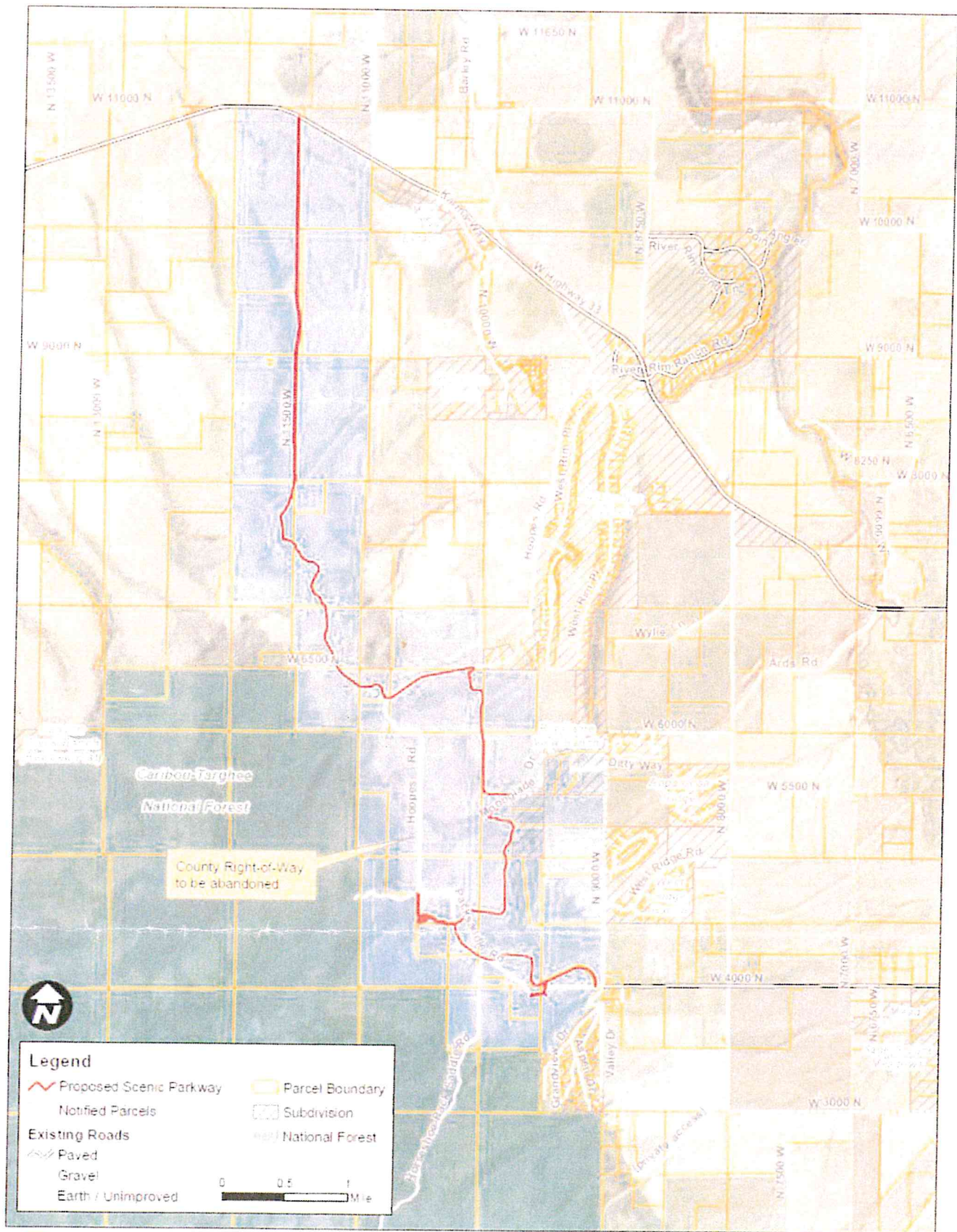
Steve Schmidt
Regional Supervisor

SLS:PJF:jms

cc: Jason Boal, Teton County Planning and Building Department

ec: Terry Thomas, IDFG
Rob Cavallaro, IDFG
Doug Petersen, IDFG
Paul Faulkner, IDFG
Robert Howe, IDFG

Enclosures: Horton Scenic Parkway Notification Map
Grand View Ranch Map

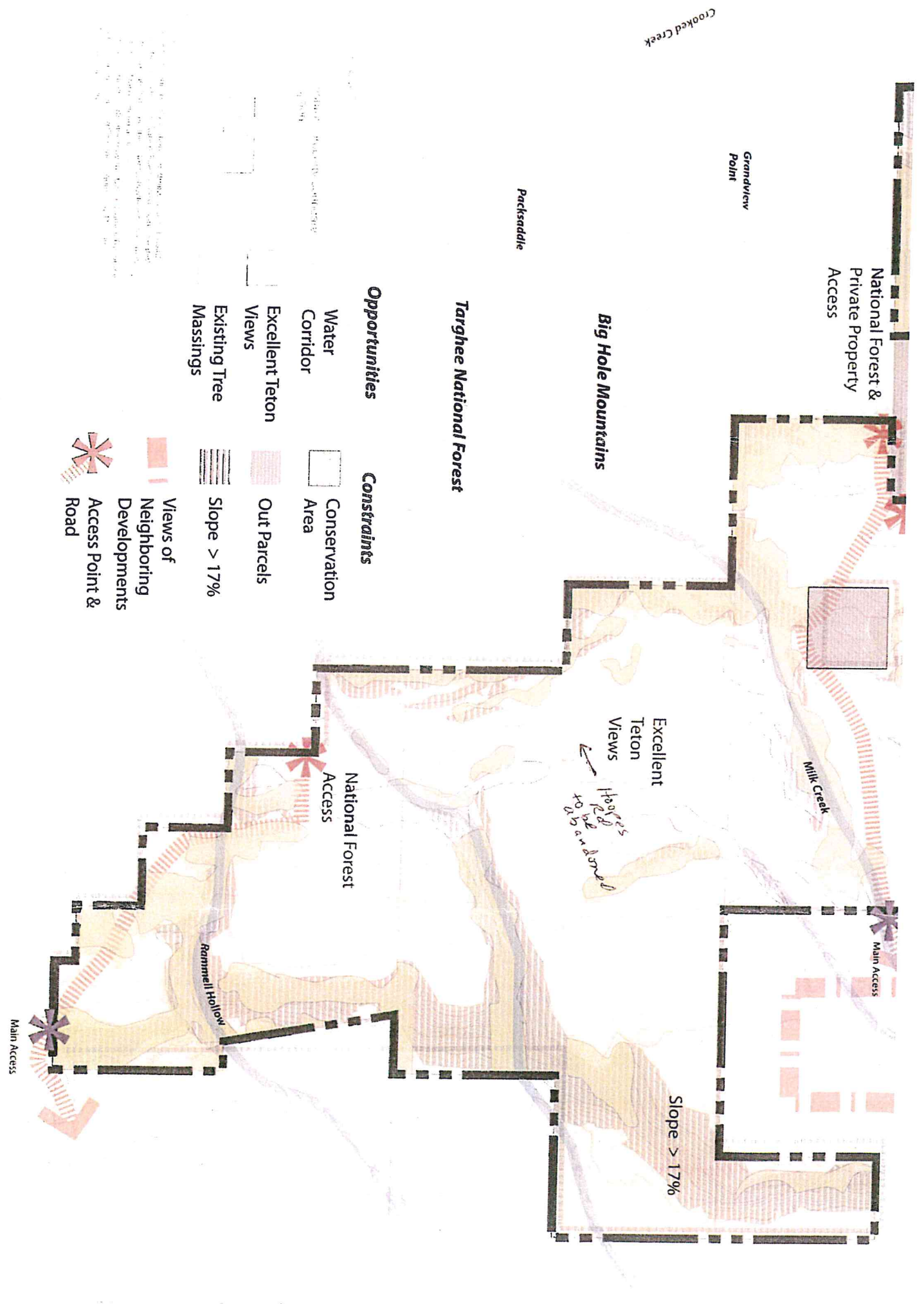


Horton Scenic Parkway Notification Map

Grandview Ranch
Jess Horton



GRAND VIEW RANCH - OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS



Dear Darryl Johnson,

The new road by Ag Rim & Grandview Ranch, has been built 50ft from my property line and runs alone side of my parcel, the whole length of the north and south side. For that reason, and also because I don't have access on that side, I am requesting for a access to the exiting road. My legal description is 6396 SEC 29, T6NR 44E.

This parcel is mostly used for farming and seasonal personal use. We have had this parcel in our family for a hundred years as of last year. My father is 86 now and I have to take care of the farming for him. Having a access on this side would be beneficial for our farming and would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.
360.9195 or 356.6619

Thank You
Sincerely,
Bronwynn Wasden

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Sir:

Thank you for soliciting our comments on the proposed road construction project.

Back in August 2014, Mr. Jess Horton applied for a permit for a road crossing of Milk Creek. By email we communicated with Mr. Horton and the agent Drew Meppen of Benchmark Land Surveying with questions and concerns. Due to a lack of response we withdrew the application with no action taken.

Should the proposed road require the discharge of dredged or fill material into streams, creek, or wetlands a Section 404 Clean Water Act permit will likely be required from this office. Based on October 7, 2014 imagery on Google Earth and information on your website it appears road construction has started.

Other than the need for our approval for certain activities in streams, creeks and wetlands (waters of the U.S.) we have no comment on the overall project. During our permit review process we might require the applicant to demonstrate alternatives to discharging dredged or fill material into streams and creeks.

Robert Brochu, Biologist
Regulatory Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Walla Walla District
208-522-1645



December 7, 2015

VIA electronic mail: djohnson@co.teton.id.us

Darryl Johnson, Director
Teton County Public Works Department
150 Courthouse Drive, Room 107
Driggs, ID 83422

Re: Proposed realignment of Packsaddle Road and Hoopes Road

Dear Darryl:

Responding to the Solicitation for Comments Notice regarding the action referenced above, please be advised that while Silver Star Communications neither supports nor opposes the realignment of Packsaddle Road and Hoopes Road, Silver Star does have communications facilities located in the presently existing right of way. In the event the right of way is vacated as proposed, Silver Star will require an easement for the existing facilities then situated on private property.

Further inquiry to Silver Star's position and easement requirement may be directed to my attention at 307.883.6690.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michelle Motzkus", is written over a faint, stylized background of a mountain range.

Michelle Motzkus
Legal & Regulatory Administrator

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES - CONNECTING LIVES

PO Box 226
Freedom, WY 83120

www.silverstar.com



Darryl,

In an attempt to help Teton County make a more informed decision I have attached a map of a couple of locations with existing power.

One being existing underground from Hwy 33 going south on N 11500 W for approx. 2 miles and the other is overhead on a piece of Hoopes Road which only has a few poles that are installed by the existing road and then go onto private property.

Wendi Celino

Engineering Service Rep.

Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative

1605 N. Hwy 33

PO Box 511

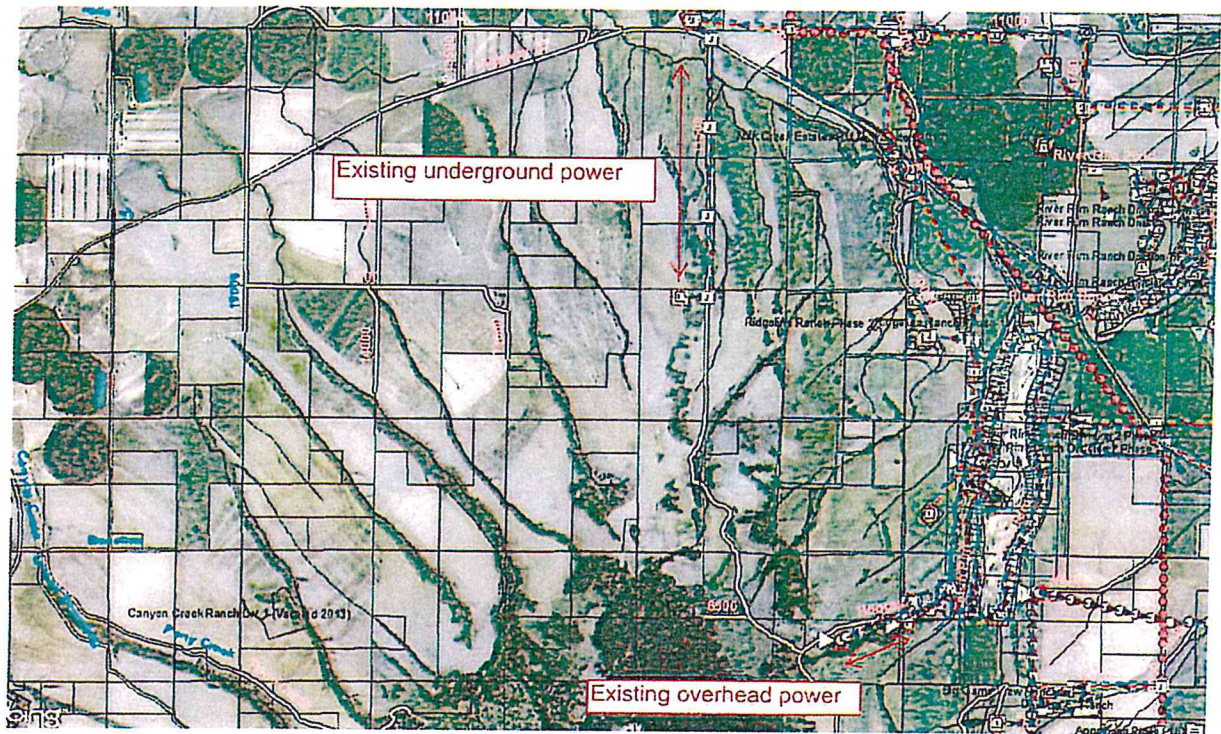
Driggs, Idaho 83422

(208)652-7431

(208)652-7110

"Where Service Matters"







December 8, 2015

Board of County Commissioners, Teton County
150 Courthouse Drive
Driggs, ID 83422

Dear County Commissioners,

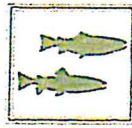
The Teton Regional Land Trust (TRLT) would like to express our concerns regarding the proposed realignment of Packsaddle Road and the associated parking area as proposed by Jess Horton. TRLT holds four perpetual conservation easements on private property in the vicinity of the proposed realignment and parking area (Teton County Instrument Nos. 145911, 146247, 194089, and 194401). Of most concern are the impacts to two of these conservation easements, 253 acres and 125 acres in size, as one borders what Mr. Horton has labeled the US Forest Service Road and Parking Access on the map submitted to Teton County September 22, 2014.

The 253-acre property, along with the 125-acre conservation easement property immediately to its north, were placed under conservation easements by the landowners and TRLT to protect their conservation values, which include significant natural, wildlife, and scenic values. Wildlife habitat specifically protected by these conservation easements include forested uplands for goshawks and great gray owls and forested and mountain shrub habitat for migratory, wintering, and calving elk, moose, and mule deer. These conservation easements limit residential development and other activities on the properties that would negatively impact the conservation values. These easement property landowners have restricted development on their properties and made significant investments to protect these lands forever.

Our concerns are regarding the potential negative impacts of increased public use via the new road and the parking area adjacent the 253-acre conservation easement property. Currently, the US Forest Service access road bisects the two conservation easement properties (See attached map). These easement properties already receive a high degree of trespass by the public traveling this road. Although a sign was installed (by the US Forest Service or Teton County) to inform passersby that the road crosses private property, fire rings, signs of wood gathering, and litter have been observed along this road. Additionally, this sign is riddled with bullets and lies flat on the ground. We feel enabling a higher degree of public use in this area has the potential to increase these trespass issues.

Furthermore, siting a public parking area intended for accessing US Forest Service lands adjacent to private property approximately 0.5 mile from these publicly-owned lands (almost 0.7 miles via the US Forest Service access road), will give the impression the adjacent private property is actually publicly-owned and therefore accessible to the public. Trespass across, and littering on, these properties will increase. Negative impacts to wildlife that use these conservation easement properties, caused by disturbance of habitat and human activity, will increase.

TETON REGIONAL LAND TRUST
P.O. BOX 247 DRIGGS, ID 83422 (208) 354-8959 www.tetonlandtrust.org



As an organization that greatly values private property rights and works with a broad spectrum of willing landowners, we feel that if Teton County adopts the realignment of Packsaddle Road and the parking area, it is critical for Mr. Horton (and Teton County, as necessary) to provide fencing, signage (including maps of private vs public property), restrooms, and trash receptacles so that these important private conservation properties are respected and guarded against trespass and future impacts.

We encourage Mr. Horton and the County to:

1. Survey the parking area and the road leading from the parking area to the existing US Forest Service access road to ensure they are not intruding on the adjoining private conservation easement property.
2. Properly sign and fence the realigned road, parking area, and any road developments adjoining conservation properties to guard against trespass, trash, and potential damage caused by increased traffic.
3. Address all private landowners' concerns regarding the new road and parking areas and incorporate them into the county's decisions regarding the new road alignment and associated development.

As the holder of the conservation easements, TRLT is committed to ensuring the integrity of our conservation easements in perpetuity. This includes stewarding and legally defending conservation easements. We feel it is important for Teton County to consider the potential negative impacts to the conservation values on our conservation easement properties and to recommend measures to mitigate these impacts.

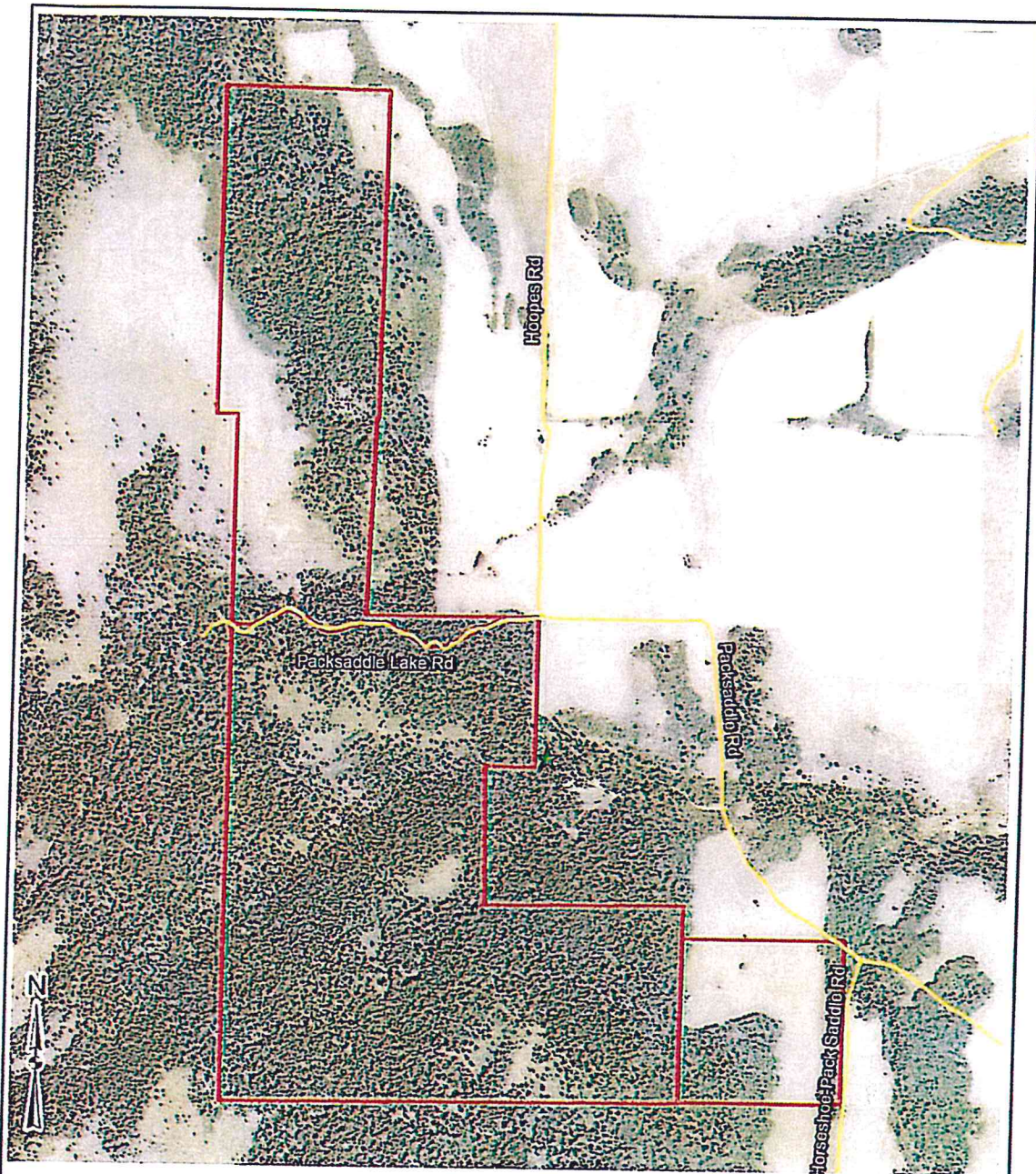
Thank you for your consideration and attention in protecting these vital conservation lands for future generations.

Sincerely,

Tamara Sperber

Conservation Director
Teton Regional Land Trust

encl



0 0.25 0.5 Miles

2013 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
MAP BY TULON REGIONAL LAND TRUST, 2015

PACKSADDLE CONSERVATION EASEMENTS MAP

- CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROPERTY BOUNDARY
- PARKING AREA